

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Central Government is aware of the press report on Global Hunger Index brought out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2010 report is based on three hunger related indicators *i.e.* the proportion of under nourished in the population, the prevalence of under weight in children under five and under five mortality rate of children. All the three parameters have equal weights. The GHI constructed for the year 2010 by IFPRI places India at 67th rank in the list of 84 countries. The report also mentions the GHI value which was 31.7 in 1990 has come down to 24.1 in 2010 reflecting an improvement in the parameters used for computing GHI.

The Central Government is committed to bring tangible improvement in health indicators of population in general and children in particular. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) specifically includes monitorable targets on reduction of poverty, malnutrition among children of age group 0-3 and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). To achieve these targets a number of programmes such as National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) are being implemented. A major wage employment programme of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is being implemented to provide the safety net to the rural poor. The implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the country is an effort to provide food security. These measures are expected to generate a positive impact on the standard of living of the people.

Involving of people in planning

2546. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to involve the people in the process of planning and identifying the challenges for the Twelfth Five Year Plan and beyond;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission will hold regional consultations across the country in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A web based consultative process has been initiated in which all interested persons can give their comments and suggestions on various issues by logging onto Planning Commission website (<http://planningcommission.nic.in>).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Planning Commission will hold five regional level consultations with State Governments, civil society, business, academia and youth to ascertain their views on various issues.

Re-examination of poverty line

2547. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has lately been re-examining the consideration of poverty line; and

(b) if so, the decision taken about the precise level of poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) As per the latest official poverty estimates for the year 2004-05, the total number of persons living Below Poverty Line (BPL) were 301.7 million, accounting for 27.5% of the total population. Based on the Expert Group Methodology (Lakdawala Committee) the national Poverty lines at 2004-05 prices were Rs. 356.60 per capita per month in the rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in urban areas.

The Planning Commission in December, 2005 constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar to review alternate concepts of poverty and to recommend changes in the existing procedures used for official estimates of poverty. The Tendulkar Committee submitted its report in December, 2009 and recommended the Mixed Reference Period (MRP) equivalent Poverty Line Basket (PLB) corresponding to urban poverty ratio of 25.7% at all India level as the new reference PLB. This new reference PLB has been applied to rural as well as urban population in all the States. The resulting estimate of the all-India rural poverty head count ratio for 2004-05 was placed at 41.8 percent, urban poverty head count ratio at 25.7 percent and 37.2 percent at all-India level. The poverty lines for rural and urban areas as per capita consumption expenditure of Rs 446.68 and Rs 578.80 per month respectively for the year 2004-05 recommended by the Tendulkar Committee have been accepted by the Planning Commission.

Unique identification number

2548. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 12-digit unique identification number has been given to some citizens in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the present status of the scheme;

(c) whether there has been some reduction in the amount proposed to be allocated for the scheme;